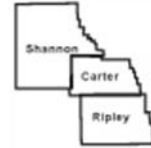


**Missouri Department of Conservation****Projects, Issues and Programs in Shannon, Carter and  
Ripley Counties****Current Conversations****INDIAN POND ROAD NEARS COMPLETION**Special Points  
of Interest**Clint Dalbom****Forestry District Supervisor**Indian Pond Road  
Nears CompletionNew Education  
Unit DevelopedThe Green  
Menace

Walleye Fishing

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At the public forum held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Eminence High School auditorium one of the concerns brought before John Hoskins, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation was the poor condition of the Indian Pond Road. The Indian Pond Road extends from the junction of Highways D and N south past Indian Pond into Alley Hollow. Since that time, the Shannon County Commission and the Missouri Department of Conservation have entered into an agreement to improve and maintain the road. Over the past two years, as funds have allowed, the road has been upgraded. A layer of white rock has been applied to the driving surface and some portions of the road have been relocated to facilitate maintenance. The particularly steep stretch of road that extends from the north side of Alley Hollow has been completely rerouted. The new road extends to Hwy. 106, 3 miles west of Alley Spring. The road is 8 miles in length and allows access to a large portion of Angeline Conservation Area that previously had limited access. Interpretive signage along the new road will include the forest, two natural areas, and Alley Hollow open lands that lay along this road. This road provides very good access to the Indian Pond portion of Angeline Con-

servation Area and supports our Next Generation Goal of managing public lands to produce the highest benefit to fish, forest, wildlife and the Missourians who enjoy these resources.

A recent incident associated with the improvement of the road is of great disappointment to both the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Shannon County Commission. On the afternoon of Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> a group of ATVs and four-wheel drive pickups trashed the road by traveling in the ditches of the road as much as on the road itself. The vehicles did further damage by running off-road into freshly-seeded food plots and forcing their way into a very unique shallow sinkhole. As a last insult to the area resources, this group left behind over 100 beer cans and other miscellaneous trash. Local conservation agent Brad Hadley discovered this damage the following Sunday morning. Hadley stated, "It is very disappointing when the Department provides a positive response to local requests such as this [improving the Indian Pond/Alley Hollow road] only to have such negative actions follow."

*Continued on Page 2*

“As Presiding Commissioner I have vowed to keep our roads open,” states Tony Orchard, “but when things happen like the incident of September 7th it makes it very hard to keep our roads open. What people need to understand is that the County Commission and Missouri Conservation Department have worked very hard to make improvements on some of our roads so that the elderly and disabled can enjoy some of the things that you and I do such as hunting, fishing, and small things like watching the seasons change. Fixing the Indian Pond Road is one of the things that we are all proud of. So I am asking that before you take your trucks and 4 wheelers off to have a good time, please think of others. Things like this are what cause organizations to want to close roads to the public.

So please stay on the designated roadways, stay out of the food plots and take your trash with you. This way we can keep our roads open for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your time.”

### **Pictures from the Indian Pond Road Project**



*L-R Brandon Brawley,  
Gordon Howell, Kirk Howell,  
Dale Counts, Danny Cook,  
Eddie Martin*



*L-R Kendall Wisdom, Clint  
Dalbom, Dale Counts,  
Gordon Howell, Terry  
Thompson*



*Vehicle tracks in freshly  
seeded wildlife plot.*



*Shannon County's dump truck spreading white rock on the Indian Pond Road.*



*Shannon County and Missouri Department of Conservation equipment working together on the Indian Pond road*



*Taken September 7, 2008. Trash and roadside damage on road*

## **Outreach and Education**

**Patricia Holloway**

**Education Consultant**

## **New Education Unit Developed**

*"Nature Unleashed! The Untamed World of Missouri's Ponds, Forests and Prairies"* is the title of the new educational unit developed by MDC's Outreach & Education division. It's our effort to draw students into the surrounding natural world of Missouri's ponds, forests, and prairies. Fourth grade teachers across the state will have an opportunity to pilot this unit beginning January 2009.

This Missouri-specific educational unit enhances the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) required by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Edu-

cation (DESE). Lessons focus on the following life science concepts as they relate to plants and animals in forests, ponds, and prairies.

- Survival needs
- Defense mechanisms
- Specialized structures
- Responses to internal and external cues
- Food chains
- Producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, scavengers),
- Predators and prey inter-

-actions

- Human interactions  
Activities will provide 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with opportunities to observe the natural world. Students will use notebooks or journals to collect and record data as they complete field investigations. Participation in this unit will broaden students understanding that science doesn't only happen in a laboratory or classroom. Students will learn how to apply inquiry skills and become problem solvers so

they can be life-long learners.

Teachers will be required to attend training prior to teaching the unit. During training, related hands-on demonstrations will provide teachers with necessary background to successfully teach the concepts. Training will also assist teachers with completing requirements to receive grant money that will be available through MDC for field trips and resource materials.

For teacher training information regarding this topic (Discover Nature Schools: Nature Unleashed!) visit the MDC web site at: <http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/workshops/>.

For additional information regarding “*Nature Unleashed! The Untamed World of Missouri’s Ponds, Forests and Prairies*” contact a Conservation Education Consultant.

*“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”*

Aristotle



## Forestry

**Mike Norris**

**Resource Forester**

## The Green Menace

Missouri has always had its share of forest pests. In the past, forest pests consisted of insects that were native to the forest community. Trees and plants adapted to these native pests and coexisted alongside them. A new pest has made its way to Missouri that is non-native and poses a grave threat to all ash trees in the state.



The emerald ash borer (EAB) entered the United States in wooden packing material that came from east-

ern Asia. The first effects of EAB were noted in 2002 in Michigan where whole forests of ash trees were mysteriously dying. Since its discovery in 2002, EAB has killed over 40 million ash trees in Michigan alone. EAB is now present in 10 states in the central and east-

**Continued on Page 5**



tern United States and was discovered in southeast Missouri in July 2008.

In September the United States Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Department of Agriculture placed Wayne County, Mo., under quarantine for items related to EAB until further notice.

Quarantined materials include the following:

- Ash nursery stock
- Any part of an ash tree, including green lumber, waste, compost, chips, etc.
- Firewood cut from any species of hardwood.

Although this quarantine only affects Wayne County, if preventive measures are not taken by local citizens, EAB could spread to other counties in Missouri. EAB usually moves only short distances—about three-hundred yards from the tree where they emerge. So how is the pest spread through ten different states in six years? EAB is more commonly spread through the movement of infested firewood, nursery stock, and ash saw logs.

The one thing local citizens can do to stop the spread of EAB is to use local firewood. Citizens should avoid spreading firewood from one site to another. If you do get firewood from a non-local source, burn all of it as soon as possi-

ble. This practice kills any borers that could be hiding in the firewood.

Signs and symptoms of the Emerald Ash Borer:

- EAB only affects ash trees
- Increased woodpecker activity on seemingly healthy ash trees
- D-shaped exit holes will be present on the branches and trunk
- Bark splitting and serpentine



*Ash tree with 60% canopy dieback.*

tunnels exposed under bark split

- Unusual sprouts growing from the roots and trunk

Canopy dieback begins in the top one-third of canopy and progress until the tree is bare.

Early detection of EAB is

imperative to stopping new outbreaks. By educating yourself on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of EAB you can help to control the spread. Call the Missouri Department of Conserva-



*Serpentine galleries created by larvae stage of Emerald Ash Borer*

tion's toll-free hotline (866-716-9974) or contact your local MDC forester to Report a possible outbreak or To get more information.

## Protection

**Jason Langston**

**Conservation Agent**

## Walleye Fishing

The fall season brings about a lot of changes in the Ozarks. River use shifts from summer time activities of boating, tubing and canoeing to cooler-weather fishing. The Current River provides a variety of different fall fishing opportunities.

One of the most challenging and rewarding prospects is walleye fishing. Fishermen use several techniques to catch this illusive fish. The most common techniques are trolling with artificial lures, using worm harnesses, and jigging and/or still fishing with a variety of minnows. Each of these techniques will work depending on the time of year. There are a variety of artificial lures that are very commonly used including crank baits, wiggle warts, and baits designed specifically for walleye. Worm harnesses are suitable as late summer to early fall bait using, as the name suggests, worms. The harness itself is a leader containing a spinner, small floats and two hooks. A single worm is attached between the two hooks and

trolled slowly up stream, usually in the deepest areas of water. Jigging takes a lot of patience but can be a very rewarding way to fish for walleye. Any size of jig between a quarter ounce and one ounce can be used. The jig is normally tipped with a minnow and a trailer hook in the tail of the minnow. Since walleye will strike at the tail of the minnow, the trailer hook helps catch a lot of fish would normally be missed. So, find your favorite hole of water with some decent depth, anchor your boat, and cast your favorite minnow species in and just sit back and wait.

It is very important to check the regulations on walleye and sauger before going out for a day of fishing since regulations vary by body of water and state. For the Current River the following regulations apply: your daily limit of walleye and sauger are 4 in the aggregate. All walleye and sauger less than 18" are to be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. The season for

walleye and sauger is throughout the year, except that from February 20 through April 14 when walleye and sauger may be taken and possessed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on the Current River and all tributaries.

The Missouri Department of Conservation spends a great deal of time each year stocking walleye in the Current River. In the early spring of the year, staff collect approximately 15 females and 40 to 50 males from the Current River and Black River by means of electrofishing. The walleye are then transported to the Chesapeake Hatchery where the females' eggs are fertilized. One female walleye can produce between 175,000 to 200,000 eggs on average. These eggs are placed into incubation jars. These jars have a constant flow of water which keeps the eggs in suspension within the water column. This process takes approximately 7 to 10 days. Upon hatching the

*Continued on Page 7*

fry swim out of the incubation jars and into circular holding tanks where they are held until they are stocked into the hatchery ponds. The ponds are prepared ahead of time to make sure there is adequate zooplankton (small aquatic insects) in the ponds for the fry walleye to eat. When the walleye are approximately 1.5" to 2.0" in length, the ponds are drained and the walleye are then stocked back into the Current River. The Missouri Department of Conservation stocked 52,000 walleye in the Current River in 2003, 48,000 in 2005, and 28,000 in 2007. In 2003, 2005 and 2007 approximately 108 walleye were marked with angler reward tags. If you catch a walleye with one of these tags, clip the tag off at skin level and contact your local Conservation Agent.



### **1910 Schoolhouse Restored at Twin Pines Education Center**

The Twin Pines Conservation Education Center recently dedicated their newly restored historical schoolhouse to be used for conservation education programs as well as a facility to host local public meetings.

Melanie Carden-Jessen is the manager of the education center.

"We needed the classroom space for our programs," Carden-Jessen said. "The school was built in 1910 when the big timber boom was in full swing in the Shannon County area," she said. "For a one-room school house the Vann School is very large because of the increase in population caused by the timber industry at the time. Everything is made from wood. The floors are oak, the siding is pine."

The building was originally constructed as a community school,

supported by the state of Missouri in 1910 and recently donated by the Winona School District, who also picked up the cost of moving the building. Restoration funds were provided by the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Stewardship Ozarks Initiative-Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Special guests at the dedication included the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, John Hoskins; Winona Elementary School Principal, Sue Bockman; local retired school superintendant Shannon Ennis, and Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation Executive Director, Rick Thom.

Director Hoskins said he counted the dedication event as a success. "It was obvious that excellent planning and much work took place in advance of the event. Melanie and her team are doing outstanding work, and it shows."

### **TWIN PINES CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER SCHEDULE**

December 4	6:00 to 7:00 PM	Discover Nature: Families —Tracks and T-Shirts
December 11	9:30 to 10:30 AM	Little Stinker's Storytime
December 13	10:00 to 11:30 AM	Nature Nuts: Animal Engineers
January 8	6:00 to 8:30 PM	Boy Scout Environmental Science Merit Badge
January 10	10:00 to 11:30 AM	Nature Nuts: Animal Grossology
January 13	6:00 to 8:00 PM	Volunteer Training Orientation
January 17	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Little House on the Prairie
January 21-23	As Requested	Lewis & Clark in Missouri
January 23	6:00 to 7:00 PM	Discover Nature: Families - The Forests Early American Megamart
February 6	Various times	Eagles—Up Close and Personal

# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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## We're on the Web!

[www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)

### MDC Mission

- To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state.
- To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities.
- To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

### Mission of this Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to share current information about conservation projects, issues, and program and to develop working relationships with the citizens of Shannon, Carter and Ripley Counties.

### Share Your Thoughts

If there are any subjects you would like to see in the *Conservation Currents* please contact any employee listed below, or if you have any questions pertaining to the Wildlife Code please contact the Conservation Agent assigned to your county. County assignments and phone numbers are listed below.

### Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.

## CONTACT OFFICES AND NAMES

**If you have a question about any of the following topics, here are your contact professionals**

### Shannon Co. Field Office

Eminence 573/226-3616

#### Forestry

Gary Gognat 573/226-3616

Terry Thompson 573/226-3616

Mike Bill 573/226-3616

#### Private Land Management

Mike Gaskins 573/226-3241

#### Conservation Agents

Brad Hadley 573/292-8540

#### Wildlife

Dan Drees 573/226-3616

Ryan Houf 573/323-4249

Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

#### Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

#### Conservation Education

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#### Outdoor Skills

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#### Private Land Management

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#### Conservation Agents

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#### Wildlife

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